
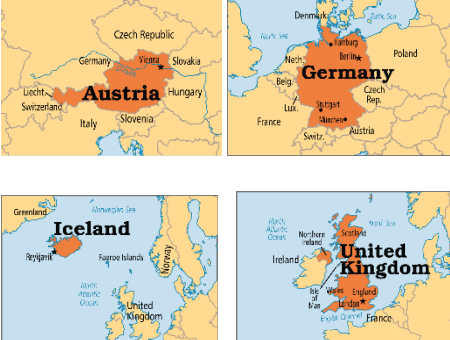


Access to Specialised Victim Support Services for Women with Disabilities who have Experienced Violence



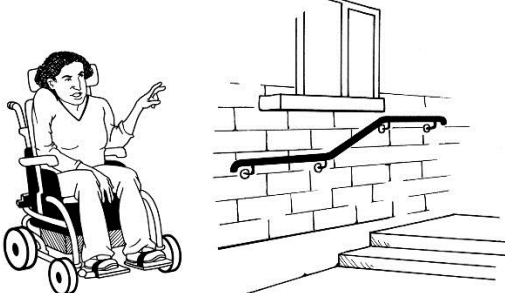


Workstream 1: Legal and Policy Framework

Comparing Austria, Germany, Iceland and the UK

Easy Read Summary

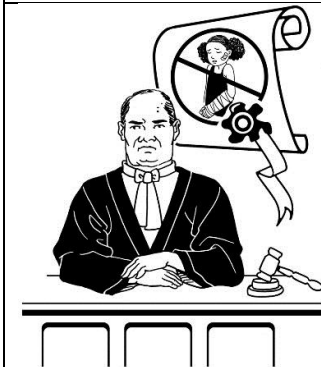
	<p>This report is about women with disabilities and Deaf women who have been affected by violence. There are lots of types of violence. They all involve hurting other people, bullying people, hitting them and treating people badly.</p>
	<p>We have done research to find out about these problems. This report is about what we found out about the laws on this.</p>
	<p>In this report we talk about what happens in four countries: Austria, Germany, Iceland and UK and especially about what the governments are doing about the problems.</p>

Support for Women with Disabilities

	<p>Violence happens more to women who have disabilities than to women who are not disabled. Other research has shown this as well, so a lot of people know about these problems now.</p>
	<p>But there is still not enough help and support for women with disabilities who get hurt. There are still a lot of barriers to getting help.</p>
	<p>There are support organisations that help all women who have been hurt. But often the buildings are not accessible.</p>
	<p>Many of the organisations do not have accessible information such as easy read and sign language.</p>
	<p>Not all women with disabilities get helped.</p>

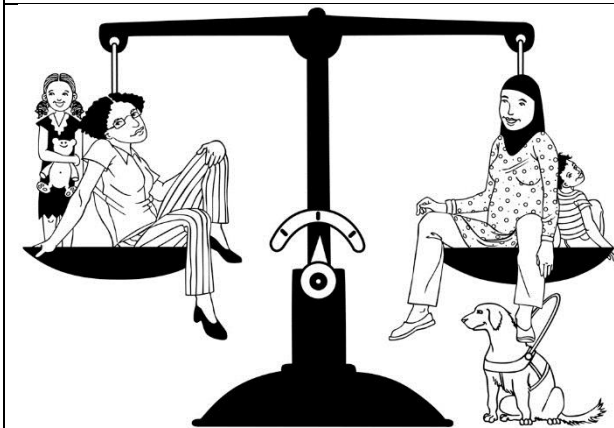


There are also support organisations run by disabled people. But often the staff working in them do not understand about the violence that women with disabilities face and often they do not campaign about it. So women with disabilities have a lot of problems getting help from them as well.



There are laws to stop violence against women. But women with disabilities also have problems getting their rights in courts to stop people who are doing the violence.

What Governments Do



In Austria, Iceland and England the governments do not do enough about violence and women with disabilities. All of the countries have plans for how to help all women who are affected by violence. They also have plans for supporting disabled people.



In Austria, Iceland and the UK they do not have National Action Plans that for stopping violence against disabled women.

In Germany there is a plan for women with disabilities. The government has set up a group and there is a network of people to work on the problem.



But the reports from all of the countries say that often the governments do not take any notice of the problem of violence against women with disabilities. Not enough is done to stop the problems.



Often the reason they do not do much is because there is not enough money. Especially in England there is less and less money for services and this means women with disabilities are not getting much help.

The Laws



Laws to protect people against violence do not work well enough for women with disabilities. They need to be changed.



In many countries women who are affected by violence get good personal support from services. But this does not always happen for women with disabilities.



And the laws are no good for women who live in institutions and care homes.

Why Women with Disabilities Don't Get Support




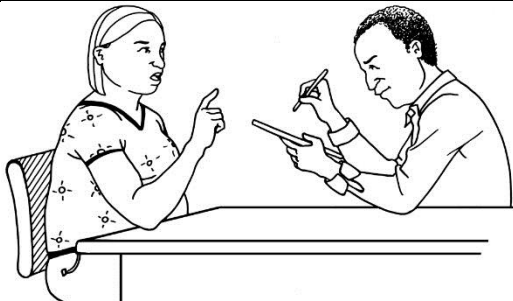


Many women with disabilities learn that they should not ask for anything.



Often women with disabilities are not believed.



The police, social workers and courts often do not have a good attitude to women with disabilities.

 <p>A line drawing showing a man with a cane and a woman with a prosthetic arm on the left. In the center, a man and a woman are kissing. On the right, a woman is hugging another woman. Above the couple in the center is a thought bubble containing three hearts.</p>	<p>Many people do not understand that women with disabilities are sexual.</p>
 <p>A line drawing of a woman sitting in a chair, talking to a man who is standing and writing on a clipboard.</p>	<p>There are many services that want to improve services for women with disabilities.</p>
 <p>A line drawing of a man sitting at a desk, looking thoughtful with his hand on his chin. Above him is a large, empty thought bubble.</p>	<p>But some do not know how to help.</p>
 <p>A line drawing showing several stacks of coins. To the right of the coins is a large, bold 'X' mark.</p>	<p>Most services for women do not have enough money to help everyone and women with disabilities get left out because sometimes it costs more to help them.</p>

What should be Done



All of the reports talk about things that need to be done. In all the countries lots of people are thinking about what to do about the problems. And we need do more to find out about the barriers by doing further studies.



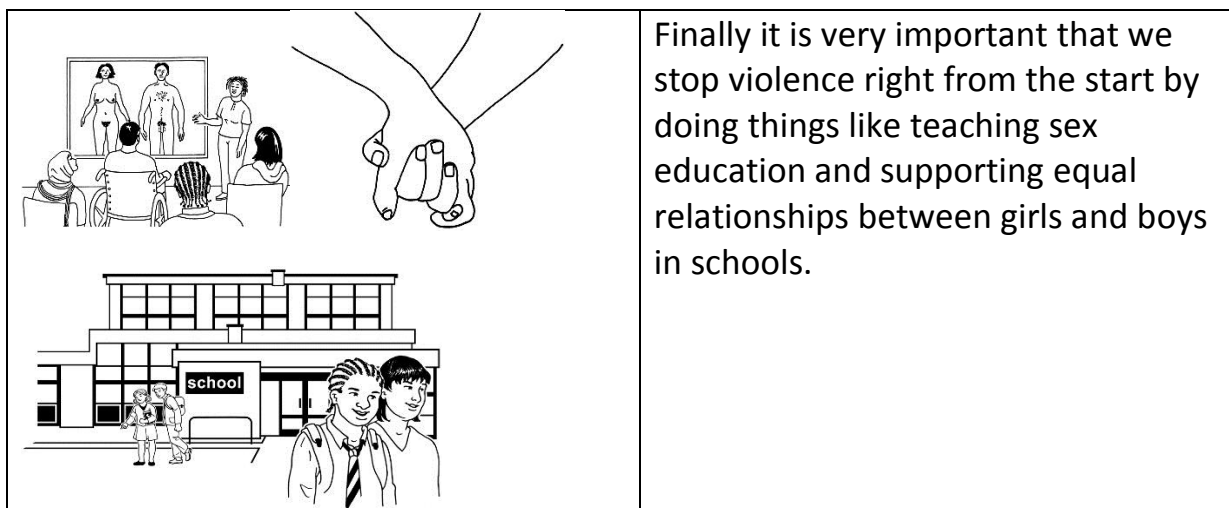
There needs to be proper funding to support women with disabilities.



There needs to be better information and training for organisations.



Services need to learn about the sort of help that women with disabilities need and how to support them properly.



Finally it is very important that we stop violence right from the start by doing things like teaching sex education and supporting equal relationships between girls and boys in schools.



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